



Literacy Playground 2023

Literacy Playground Applications Open Now!

AR Kids Read (AKR) is currently seeking Literacy Playground partner sites for Summer 2023. We are accepting applications from sites in Pulaski County.

If interested, please read the information below and submit the application via google link no later than Wednesday, March 15. [Register by clicking here.](#)

What is the Literacy Playground?

The AKR Literacy Playground program is an engaging, dynamic and camp-themed literacy program designed to reduce summer slide and help students close grade-level reading gaps. The program is intended to be embedded in an established summer program's daily schedule. Each site will be assigned a certified teacher and intern who will lead two classes, one for rising 1st and 2nd graders and one for rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The one-hour classes meet four times per week (Monday through Thursday). Students will not only receive valuable foundational literacy skill building and reading and writing practice, they will also engage in activities that promote social emotional learning and engagement skills. The Literacy Playground follows Scholastic's Lit Camp curriculum, which focuses on the seven strengths (belonging, friendship, curiosity, kindness, confidence, courage and hope).

Program Dates:

- Week of June 5 - Pre-assessment and teacher onboarding
- Week of June 12 – week of July 24 – Literacy Playground classes
- Week of July 31 – Post-assessments
- July 28 (tentative) - Hoop session

The Benefits

- High-dosage literacy-focused education sessions led by a certified teacher and intern,
- Pre- and post- assessment data to show student progress,
- Parent engagement resources for at home learning,
- Turnkey literacy program that includes onboarding, assessments, and AKR support
- Social-emotional learning as well as literacy skill building, and
- Opportunity for students to participate in a one-day basketball themed celebration, Hoop Session

AKR Pledges to

- Foster a collaborative, enthusiastic, and supportive environment for site staff,
- Recruit, hire, and train a certified teacher and intern to lead the Literacy Playground classes,
- Adhere to partner sites' security and facility guidelines; striving to honor organizational culture,
- Ensure completion of background check requirements of teachers, interns, and community volunteers,
- Provide curriculum, materials, decodable books, and supplies for the classes,



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- Facilitate site training and onboarding,
- Administer pre- and post-assessments and provide a student data summary to the partner site,
- Distribute books to enrolled students to help build their home libraries,
- Provide parent involvement letters and activities to encourage families to extend the learning opportunities,
- Address any site challenges or concerns in a timely manner, and
- Host the end-of-the summer program celebration, Hoop Session.

Summer Program Sites pledge to

- Establish a welcoming and collaborative team atmosphere for site and teaching team,
- Provide a Site Coordinator to serve as primary contact,
- Commit to hosting the classes four times per week for 8 weeks,
- Schedule and host pre- and post- assessments in consultation with AKR staff
- Provide a designated classroom and space to house materials,
- Participate in the site onboarding and training,
- Ensure the completion of student registration which includes parent letters and student media releases,
- Designate a minimum of one staff member per class to support the teaching team with classroom management,
- Communicate with AKR staff regularly with any issues or concerns,
- Submit an end of summer program feedback form to AKR to assist with future program design improvements.

To be considered, sites must:

1. Run an established daily summer program for youth.
2. Enroll a minimum of 35 students in the Literacy Playground classes.
3. Participate in the cost sharing of the program. See Cost Sharing section below.
4. Agree to the above site pledge.

Cost-Sharing Agreement

The Literacy Playground provides a high-quality, engaging literacy education package to site partners. The program spans on-boarding, pre- and post- student assessment and data summaries, classes led by certified teachers and college interns, books for students and much more. AR Kids Read invests, on average, \$10,000 per 35-student partner site. To maintain this high level of support and serve an ever-growing number of students, applicant sites are asked to make a partner match of \$5,000 to offset a portion of these expenses. AR Kids Read is happy to provide supplemental program information for organizational grant writing efforts. For partners with more than 35 students, please contact us to discuss cost sharing arrangements and specific needs. We look forward to partnering with you!